



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 210-2005

To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: August 12, 2005

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

Subject: **BI-WEEKLY UPDATE**

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The purpose of this LTC is to provide you with an update describing some of the areas the Administration has recently been focusing on:

Emergency / Hurricane Preparedness – Staff continues to work on and update the City's emergency / hurricane preparedness plans. An emergency "drill" to review and put into practice this updated plan is scheduled for August 30 with all appropriate City staff participating.

Cirque de Soleil – Staff and I continue to meet with various representatives associated with the Cirque de Soleil to further discuss this proposed project and the various efforts that need to be undertaken in dealing with the proposals.

Major Events Plan (MEP) – The City of Miami Beach, along with Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami, will play host to the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) Show for the second straight year. This year's show takes place on Sunday, August 28 at the American Airlines Arena and includes two live remotes that will take place at the National and Victor hotels respectively. These will be live performances at each location during the show and televised to the viewing audience. Additionally, MTV has secured the Surfcomber Hotel and will transform it into "Hotel MTV" from August 24 – 28, 2005. As we experienced last year, most clubs and hotels will be hosting parties throughout the weekend. Staff is working daily with MTV and the other venues to finalize the details of the weekend and to ensure adequate City resources are deployed. Enhanced staffing will be provided by most City departments for this event.

Public Safety – The Police Department will hold a "Sexual Offenders and Predators Awareness" seminar on September 1 at Nautilus Middle School. Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Division will discuss federal legislation, how to check for offenders that may be living in your area, proposed new legislation, specifics on the new sexual predator ordinance and the Florida Amber Alert Plan.

Film and Special Events – Production crews from the film *Miami Vice* filmed a high-end boat race in the Baywalk and Marina that will serve as the opening of the movie. Staff is working with Italian company, Filmauro, in their production of “Christmas in Miami,” the latest in a series of successful Italian road movies starring the Italian equivalent of Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, that each year are the top box office draws in Italy and typically lead to massive Italian tourism to the featured destination. Filming is set to begin later this month in Miami Beach with many Miami Beach locations featured. Staff has also met with the producers, director, creator and network executives of Showtime’s new Miami-based TV series “Dexter” with the pilot set to film in the area beginning in September. The recently concluded IMG Fashion shows at the Raleigh were a great success, with organizers promising a bigger and better presence in 2006. Staff continues to coordinate the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) events, including the 5K and final gala, scheduled for late September and bringing in more than 8,000 police chiefs and/or dignitaries.

Labor Relations – Staff from the Office of Labor Relations continues to work on preparing and collecting information the City Commission requested at the August 1 City Commission meeting in preparation for the September 14 Finance and Citywide Committee meeting. In addition, the Labor Relations staff held a quarterly Labor / Management meeting on August 11 with all Department Directors and Assistant Directors to share information regarding important labor relations issues and discussed preparations for the upcoming round of negotiations with all of the City’s collective bargaining units.

Grants Management - Recent grant awards include \$500,000 for the Byron Carlyle Theater renovations; \$500,000 Children's Trust Out of Schools Programs; \$196,294 Children's Trust for the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP); \$63,993 for the Homeless Trust’s Supportive Housing Program; \$137,946 for the Alton Road Median Landscaping project; \$80,000 for the Muss Park renovations; and \$400,000 for the Normandy Isle Park renovations.

Organizational Development – Training on our new enhanced customer service standards continues to take place with staff from throughout the City. The goal of the training is to ensure that all employees receive the proper training and resources to be able to deliver outstanding customer service. In addition, as part of the City’s ongoing organizational development efforts and enhanced customer service initiatives, the following workshops are available in the next few months: Team Building (August 16-18); Diversity: Understanding Differences (August 23); Communication to Better Relationships (August 25); Customer Relations (October 19-21); Life Matters (December 6-8); Ethics (January 10-13); Seven Habits of Highly Effective People (October 17-18); and Supervisory Essentials Series (October-November).

United States Coast Guard – Several City senior staff members recently met with leaders from the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Miami Beach to discuss ways in which the City and Coast Guard can better work together on projects of mutual interest.

Miami International Book Fair / Miami International Film Festival – Staff continues to work with representatives from Miami Dade College on scheduling associated with the Book Fair, taking place in November 2005, and the Film Festival, taking place in March 2006, and continue to discuss ways in which the City can further partner on these important community / cultural events. As information regarding these events become available, they will be shared with the Commission.

Bass Museum – The Friends of the Bass Museum of Art has extended free admission to all City employees and their families through October 23, 2005 to view the current exhibits which include: *Retratos: 2000 Years of Latin American Portraits*; *Retratos de Carlos Luna*; and *Victoria Girman on Display*.

Parks and Recreation – Various City Departments, including Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire, Neighborhood Services and Tourism and Cultural Development will staff booths and provide information at the Youth Sports Expo on Saturday, August 13 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Flamingo Park. This event is designed to help residents learn more about the City and the various services we offer through our Parks and Recreation and other City programs. A free Movie in the Pool event will take place on Saturday, August 20 at 8:00 p.m. at the Scott Rakow Youth Center.

Voter Registration Efforts - As part of Vote Miami Beach, the City of Miami Beach will host several voter registration drives over the course of the next few months. The next two take place on August 13 at the Sports Youth Expo taking place at Flamingo Park and on August 20 at the Movie in the Pool event at the Scott Rakow Youth Center. The City continues the Vote Miami Beach campaign and will host other voter registration drives in the coming months to fulfill the City's objective to increase Miami Beach voter participation and voting awareness. Miami Beach registered voters receive discounts at participating Miami Beach businesses. For more information, go to votemiamibeach.com.

United Way – Our annual United Way efforts will kick-off in September with our employee campaign running through the end of November 2005. Michael Aller will again serve as the City's Chairperson.

Neighborhood Leadership Academy – The next session of the Miami Beach Neighborhood Leadership Academy begins on September 12, 2005. The 13 part academy is part of an overall commitment by the City to increase resident's participation in decisions that affect Miami Beach and an effort to increase the understanding of City official's and employees' duties and responsibilities as well as city department services available to residents.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.